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An ABSTRACT of the Grants for Mines, Mineral, and Battery Works

Sept. 7. Eliz.
1565.

BY Letters Patents reciting
that her Majesty had then-
tofore granted Privilege to
Henric de Voz, for Mineing and Digging in her
Majesty of *England* for Allom and Copperas, as
in the Patent to him is mentioned, and that
her Majesty had granted to *Thomas Thurland*
and *Daniel Houghsetter*, all manner of Ewers,
Gold, Silver, Copper, and Quicksilver, within
the Countiees of *York*, *Lancaster*, *Cumberland*,
Westmoreland, *Cornwal*, *Devon*, *Gloucester*, *Wor-*
cester, and the Principality of *Wales*. Her said
Majesty did in and by such Letters Patents, give
and grant full Power, License, and Authority,
to *William Hamfreys* and *Christopher Shute*, their
Heirs and Assigns, and every of them for ever,
To search, Open, Dig, Mine and Try all Earths,
Ground, Soil, and Places, of her Kingdom of
England.

England, Dominions and Borders of the same; together with that part of *Ireland*, and the *English* Pale, (excepting the Places therein excepted, herein before mentioned) and to convey, carry away, and work in Waters, and Water-courses belonging to the said Miners, in all Parts and Territories of, and in her said Realms, and either of them (except as therein is accepted) for all manner of Ewers simple and pure, or mix'd and compound, of the Mettals of Gold, Silver, Copper, Quicksilver, and for all other Minerals and Treasures likely to be found in the said Earths, Grounds, Places, and Soils, or any of them, and for Tin and Lead, in such sort as by the Laws and Customs of her said Realms had been lawfully used (Copperas and Allom in *England* excepted) and the same Ewers simple and pure, or mixt and compound of the Mettals of Gold, Silver, Copper, Quicksilver, &c. to draw, break, stamp, wash, boil, roast, or melt, or otherwise to fine or bring to perfection, take and enjoy the same; and that if her Majesty should be pleased to have any other part of *Ireland* than the *English* Pale searched for Minerals, then the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs and Assignes, should have the like Privilege, Power and Authority, Profit, Comodity, in such other Parts out of the *English* Pale, to all Intents as if the same had been specially expressed in such Grant.

17 Sept. 7 *Queen Eliz.*] By Letters Patents her said Majesty granted unto *Humfreys* and *Shute* the sole use of the Calamine Stone and for composition of mixt Mettal call'd Latten, and in
reduc-

reducing it to be soft and Maleable, as also in ap-
 apting, manuring and working of the same, for,
 and into all sorts of Battery Wares, Cast Work,
 and Wire, and also in the mollifying and manu-
 ring of Iron and Steel, and drawing and forging
 of the same into Wire and Plates in all Places in
 her Realm of *England*, and that part of *Ireland*
 known by the Name of *The English Pale*.

In both which said Letters Patents is provided,
 That the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs
 and Assigns, should not work under or near any
 Castles belonging to her Majesty, her Heirs or
 Successors, or under, or in any Houses, Gardens,
 &c. of her Subjects, and to make reasonable Sa-
 tisfaction to all Owners, Farmers, &c. for all
 Damages to Grass, Corn, &c. to be done: And
 that if any Person should disturb their Workmen,
 such Person should suffer six Months Imprison-
 ment, and forfeit One hundred Pound.

And the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs
 and Assigns, in and by both Letters Patents, are
 empowered to take up at reasonable Rates and
 Prices, Artificers, Instruments and Necessaries,
 for their Works; with Power also to erect Work-
 houses on Crown Lands.

17 Sep. 7 Eliz. 1565.] By Indentures be-
 tween her said Majesty, of the one part, and the
 said *Humfreys* and *Shute* of the other part, re-
 citing the said two several Letters Patents grant-
 ed to them the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, for her
 self her Heirs and Successors, covenanted, That
 none of the Subjects of her said Majesty her
 Heirs or Successors, or any other Person what-

soever, other than such as should be set to work by the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs or Assigns, should be permitted or suffered to dig, open, or work, at any time after the date of the said Letters Patents, within any of the Kingdoms or Confines before expressed, for the Calamine Stone, or for any Ewers or Mines of Gold, Silver, Copper, Quicksilver, Tin and Lead, or any of them, nor to make and convert Copper into Latten, or thereof make or convert any manner of Steel or Iron into Wire or Plate, otherwise than by the License of the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs and Assigns; And that her said Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, would disturb and hinder all and every Person and Persons whatsoever, who should practice any thing contrary to the Privilege of the said Letters Patents. In consideration whereof the said *Humfreys* and *Shute* covenanted to pay her Majesty her Heirs and Successors, of all Gold, Silver, and Quicksilver, that should be found neat of it self without Fire or Melting, the full Tenth part of the same, forthwith, upon the finding thereof; and of all Gold Ewer, and Silver Ewer to be found, holding in every Hundred eight Pound weight or above, in fine Gold or fine Silver, by the Assay; the like full tenth Part of all such Gold and Silver so to be found, and the Preemption of all the rest of the Gold and Silver aforesaid, paying for the same, in every ounce of Gold Eight Pence, and in every ounce of Silver, one Penny less than the Queen, her Heirs or Successors, might or should buy within their Mint

to be paid in ready Money within Thirty Days, next after the Delivery of any such Gold or Silver, and Tin, in the name of Coinage or other Right, such Portion as the Queen then had in *Devonshire* or *Cornwall*; and of Lead such Custom and other Profit as her Majesty usually had, or might have in other Parts of her Realm of *England*; and of the Calamine Stone, the just Twentieth Part of the same, or of the Value thereof, and of every Hundred Weight of fine Copper, during the first five Years next following the end of the six Months, from the Date of such Indentures Two Shillings, or the Twentieth Part of every Hundred Weight of fine Copper, at the choice of her Majesty, her Heirs and Successors, and after the said six Years be determined, to have of every Hundred weight of fine Copper Two Shillings Six Pence, or the Fifteenth Part of every Hundred Weight of such Fine Copper, or the Value thereof in currant Money, and to have so much of the said Copper, and so much of the said Battery Plates and Wire as the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, their Heirs or Assigns, should make so far forth as the said Queen shall have need of for her necessary Affairs, on half a Years notice given, and paying ready Money for the full Value of the same.

28th May 10 Eliz.] By Letters Patents reciting the said Grant to the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, and other Letters Patents they the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, and their Assigns were empower'd to grant, and did grant Parts and Portions of Licenses to them granted, to several Assignees,

signees, and since making such Letters Patents, they granted and assigned unto Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, Knt. Lord-Keeper of the Great Seal of *England*, *Thomas Duke of Norfolk*, and others; divers Parts and Portions of such Licenses by force whereof the said *Humfreys* and *Shute*, and their Assigns, who had travel'd in the right use and search of the Calamine Stone, and of other Battery Works, Ewers, Minerals, &c. might be Incorporated and made a Body Politick, to avoid Inconveniencies by Death; and the said Queen for farther advancement and encouraging the working of the said Calamine Stone, Battery Works, and other the Premises, was pleas'd that the said *Humfreys*, *Shute*, their Heirs and Assigns, should enjoy all the Authorities, Grants, and Liberties, contained in the said Letters Patents, and for the better effecting the same, did give and grant to the said Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, *Thomas Duke of Norfolk*, *Humfreys*, and *Shute*, &c. that they by the Name of Governors, Assistants, and Society of the Mineral and Battery Works, should be from thenceforth for ever a Body Politick in it self Incorporate, and have Continuance for ever.

12 June 10 Eliz.] By Indentures between the said Queen, of the one Part, and the Governors, Assistants, and Society of the Mineral and Battery Works, of the other Part, after Recitals therein, the Company covenants to perform what the first Patentees were obliged to.

In 1569. The King at Arms gave the Society a Seal with proper Arms, to use upon all their Occasions. *Vide Grant.*

22 Jan. 1 Jac, 1.] By Letters Patents granted by Queen *Elizabeth*, to the said *Humfreys* and *Shnte*, for the sole use of the Calamine Stone, and composition of Latten, and other mixt Metals, and reducing it to be soft and Maleable, and in Manuring the same into all sorts of Battery Works, Cast Works, Wire, &c. in any Place within his Realms and Dominions. His Majesty incorporated the Earl of *Pembroke*, and others by the same Name, for better continuing the said Corporation; and granted unto them all manner of Mines and Ewers, Simple and Pure, or Mixt and Compound of Gold, Silver, Copper, Quicksilver, Tin and Lead, and all other Minerals and Treasures; (Except as therein is excepted,) and his said Majesty did thereby command all his Loving Subjects, and all other Persons whatsoever, not to attempt to use the said Calamine Stone, or Compound, or make into Plate, or Wire, any of the said Latten Battery, Iron or Steel, or other Wire by any other Means, or with any other Instrument, Tool or Device than they did use in the Seventh Year of the Reign of the late Queen *Elizabeth*; nor to dig, open, mine, or get any of the said Ewers, Metals or Treasures of the Earths aforesaid, without License first obtained of the Company, upon Penalty of six Months Imprisonment, and an Hundred Pounds Forfeiture.

vid p. 8

An

*An Abstract of the Power of the Charters,
Granted by Queen Elizabeth and King James I.*

THE Society made and confirmed a Body Politick for ever; to have a Common Seal to use upon all their Occasions, liberty to Purchase, Let, Set, or Grant, Sue and be Sued in as ample Form as any other Corporation; and have Power to elect two Governors, two Deputy Governours, eight Assistants or more. To assemble and govern Affairs by their own Constitutions. To elect other Governours, &c. in the room of any that shall die; and to expel unworthy Members. No Members to serve Juries; and to admit as many Members as shall be thought convenient, not exceeding eight Foreigners, who are to have Letters Patents to make them Free, with Power to administer Oaths. No Person to put in Practice or Imitate any Method, Engine or Inventions, imployed or used by the Society. All the Society's Officers, &c. to be subject to the Jurisdiction of their Government, and to pay Fines as shall be adjudged. To have Power to constitute and appoint Officers, Servants, &c. To erect Workhouses upon any Lands belonging to their Majesties, their Heirs and Successors without Molestation.

Reservation by the Crown to Resume, upon giving a Recompence, as shall be adjudged by six Citizens. Not to be Re-granted to any other but the Society. All Justices, Barons, &c. to be aiding and assisting to the Society, and not suffer any Prosecution at Law against the Governours, Assistants, Members or Servants, &c.

An

*An Account of Acts of Parliaments,
Proclamations, Tryals in the Ex-
chequer, Hearings before King
and Council, and in the High
Court of Chancery, relating to the
Grant, &c. to Thurland and
Houghsetter, Humfreys and
Shute.*

10 *Eliz.* **M**ADE Corporations and to subsist
for ever.

39 *Eliz.* An Act of Parliament passed for
their Encouragement.

43 *Eliz.* An Act of Parliament passed for con-
firming Patents, and Right of others saved.

1 *Jac.* 1. Their Grants and Charters con-
firm'd.

3 *Jac.* 1. A saving Clause to them in the Act
against Monopolies.

14 *Jac.* 1. The Company petition the King
to remit the Fifteenth Part of his Share of Cop-
per reserved to him.

15 *Jac.* 1. Granted and ordered to be enroll'd.

19 *Jac.* 1. A Warrant obtained from the
Lords of the Council to seize some Persons for
incroaching on their Privileges.

23 *Jac.* 1. A Petition to his Majesty to preserve the Privileges of the Society.

In 1625. 1 *Car.* 1. His Majesty passes a Grant to Sir *Hugh Middleton*, who gets the same confirmed by the Company, and takes a Lease under them.

1 *Car.* 1. The Society Petition his Majesty to issue out a Proclamation to prevent the Importation of Foreign Wire to their Prejudice, which was granted.

5 *Car.* 1. A Warrant was obtained against Mr. *Bisse* for incroaching on their Privileges, who was compelled to submit to their Terms.

An Order from the Exchequer to pay Mr. *Thorpes* Share or Dividend, being extended.

6 *Car.* 1. A Proclamation against Foreign Wire and Wool-Cards.

14 *Car.* 1. An order of Reference from the Counsel to the Society, about some Difference to be adjusted by them.

In 1638. 14 *Car.* 1. An Act of Parliament passed in favour of the Society, to prevent foreign Iron Wire, Wool-Cards, &c. being imported.

16 *Car.* 1. An Information in the Exchequer against Mr. *Brokesby*, signed by the Attorney General.

In 1649. 2 *Car.* 2. Mr. *Brokesby* submits and complies to the Company's Demands.

1656. Lord *Whitlock*, Commissioner of the Treasury, examines the Grants of Incorporations,

ons, and gives his Opinion that they were Good and Firm, and other subsequent Grants for Mines would be invalid.

1660. Several Petitions were renew'd to prevent the importing Foreign Wire.

1662. The Lord *Brouncker* and Sir *Robert Murray* being desirous to be satisfied of the Company's Grants, in behalf of the Royal Society, the said Grants being examined by them, they were fully satisfied of the Power, and took a Lease of a Mine by Order, and for Account of the said Royal Society.

1662. The Company was summon'd by order of the King and Council to attend in relation to their putting in a Caveat with my Lord Chancellor, to prevent passing a Grant of Mines to Sir *George Hamilton* and others; upon which Sir *George Hamilton* surrendered the intended Grant to the Company, and they become Members in their Privileges.

In 1668. 20 Car. 2. The Company for the Mines Royal were united with the Society for the Mineral and Battery Works, and his Majesty was pleas'd to incourage the same. Prince *Rupert* and the Lord *Shaftsbury* were at a Court held at the *Robes Chamber* in *Whitehall*, elected Governours.

1678. There was Tryals in the Exchequer, and Hearings before the King and Counsel, in favour of the Company, and a Proclamation was issued forth at the Request of the Society, and is as follows,

' Whereas by several Acts of Parliament
 ' made in the Third Year of King *Edward* the
 ' Fourth, the First Year of King *Richard* the
 ' Third, the Nine and Thirtieth Year of Queen
 ' *Elizabeth* and the Fourteenth of his now Ma-
 ' jesties Reign, and other Statutes of this King-
 ' dom, It is enacted (amongst other Things con-
 ' tained) that no Iron Thread commonly call-
 ' ed White Wire) nor Cards for Wool, nor
 ' Card Wyar, nor Iron Wyer for making of
 ' Wool-Cards, shall be imported into this King-
 ' dom (wherein the best Iron Thread is made)
 ' And whereas by the Manufactures of making
 ' and drawing of Wyer, and of making of
 ' Wool-Cards, very many poor People and their
 ' Families have been implied and maintained,
 ' and the said Wool-Cards are of Great Con-
 ' cernment to this Kingdom for the good ma-
 ' king of Woollen Cloth: The Kings most Ex-
 ' cellent Majesty therefore, taking the Premises
 ' into his Princely consideration, and being sen-
 ' sible that if the Importation of Foreign Wire
 ' and other Manufactures aforesaid, should be
 ' permitted, the same would tend not only to the
 ' Destruction of the said Manufactures within
 ' his Dominions, and to the great Prejudice of
 ' the ancient and profitable Trade of Clothing,
 ' and divers other Trades, which do necessarily
 ' depend upon Iron Wire, and the several Ma-
 ' nufactures before specified, but also to the Ru-
 ' in of many Hundreds of Families, whose sole
 ' Livelihood consist therein: Is graciously plea-
 ' sed for the Preservation of the said useful Ma-
 ' nufactures

' manufactures (which he is resolved to encourage)
 ' and for the good of his Subjects, by this His
 ' Royal Proclamation, with the Advice of his
 ' Privy Council) strictly to charge and com-
 ' mand, that from henceforth no Person or Per-
 ' sons whatsoever, Natives, Denizens, Aliens,
 ' or Others, do or shall import, bring or convey,
 ' or cause to be imported, brought or conveyed
 ' into any Place or Places within this his Realm
 ' of *England*, or Dominion of *Wales*, from or
 ' out of any Part or Place beyond the Seas, any
 ' of the said Foreign Wire or Wool-Cards, or
 ' any other Manufactures made of Foreign Iron
 ' Wire, contrary to Acts of Parliament aforesaid,
 ' or any of them, or any other Law or Statute
 ' of this Kingdom, upon pain of Forfeiture there-
 ' of according to the said Statutes, One Moity
 ' to his Majesty, and the other Moity to him or
 ' them that shall seize the same, or such other
 ' Penalties and Forfeitures as by the Laws of this
 ' Kingdom and his Majesties Prerogative Royal
 ' may be inflicted upon the Offenders: And
 ' that under the like Penalties, no Old Iron
 ' Wire taken out of old Wool-Cards, shall be
 ' put into New Leather, or New Boards, and
 ' put to Sale; And his Majesty doth strictly
 ' charge and command as well the *Governors*,
 ' *Assistants* and *Society* of the City of *London* of
 ' and for the *Mineral* and *Battery Works*, as al-
 ' so the Commissioners, Farmers, and all other
 ' Officers whatsoever of his Majesties Customs,
 ' and all other Persons whatsoever, to seize all
 ' such Foreign Wire and Commodities aforesaid,
 ' as

' as shall be imported or sold contrary to the said
 ' Statutes, and this his Royal Proclamation, in
 ' whose Hands soever the same shall be found:
 ' And that they and every of them be in all Re-
 ' spects Diligent and Circumspect in the pre-
 ' venting the Importation of the several prohi-
 ' bited Commodities before specified, and in the
 ' Discovery thereof when imported, and that
 ' they make seizure thereof according to Law,
 ' and cause the Offenders therein to be punish'd
 ' as to Justice shall appertain. And his Majesty
 ' doth also hereby require all Justices of the
 ' Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables,
 ' and other Officers whatsoever, to be aiding
 ' and assisting in all things touching the due
 ' Execution of his Majesties Royal Proclamation
 ' from time to time as occasion shall require, as
 ' they will answer the contrary at their utmost
 ' Peril.

*Given at our Court at Whitehall, the 3d
 of May 1678. In the 30th Year of our
 Reign.*

1679, A Commission was granted to an Officer
 appointed by the Society to seize Foreign Wire,
 and an order in Council for the King's Moiety
 of what was seized to be destroyed, because
 the Sale should not prejudice the Society.

1689, In an Act of Parliament pass'd the 1st
 of King *William* and Queen *Mary*, to repeal the
 Statute against Multiplying Gold and Silver, in
 which there was a Clause obtain'd, that no Mine
 of Copper, Tin, Iron, or Lead, should be adjud-
 ged

ged or reputed a Royal Mine, altho' Gold or Silver should be extracted out of the same.

1692, There was a Law Suit between Sir *Carbary Price* and Mr. *Anthony Sheppard*, which being illegally obtain'd against the Company, for fear of a Re-hearing, they procured an Act of Parliament, 1693. to prevent Disputes concerning Royal Mines in *England*, in which it was order'd no Mine should be esteem'd a Royal Mine; but that the Proprietors of any Mines within the Kingdom, wherein any Oar shall be discovered, and in which there is Copper, Tin, Iron, or Lead, shall and may hold and enjoy the same; notwithstanding such Mines or Oar shall be computed or claimed a Royal Mine. Provided always that their Majesties, their Heirs and Successors, and all claiming any Royal Mines under them, shall and may have the Oar of any such Mine or Mines paying the Proprietors, viz. for Copper Oar, *l. 16 per Tun*; Tin Oar, *l. 2 per Tun*; Iron Oar, *l. 2 per Tun*; and Lead Oar, *l. 9 per Tun*.

The Societies Privileges being thus lessen'd, gave Birth to the Corporation of the *Mine Adventnrers*, obtain'd by misrepresentation. Whose irregular Proceedings so much discouraged the Mineral Affairs— Which also effected the Society of the *Mines Mineral, and Battery Works*, that they left the Management of their Affairs to an indiscreet Person, Mr. *Moses Stringer*, who was appointed one of the Governours, and made Mineral Master General of the Societies, and confirm'd therein by the Members

bers thereof at succeeding Courts, and his Son chosen Hereditary Register and Secretary.

1709, A Petition was preferr'd to the Queen in Council, for a Warrant against Mr. *John Tripp* of *Bristol*, to appear, for incroaching on the Society's Privileges, which was obtain'd, and he attended accordingly.

In *November* 1709. A Suit was commenced in the High Court of Chancery, by one *Thomas Potter*, against the then Governours, Assistants, and Society of the City of *London*, of and for the Mines Royal, the Mineral and Battery Works. Which Suit was defended by the said Company as a Corporation, and by an Order of the said Court, they were allowed to put in their Answers under their Common Seals, in which Cause the Company was decreed to pay the said *Potter's* Demands.

1715, The said *Moses Stringer* dyed, before he had made much progress in the Business, and his Widow, and her Son, and other Members not being skilful in the Society's Affairs, and being willing to promote the said Undertaking, they apply'd to Mr. *Ph. Peck* of *Flint*, to take the Management thereof, and after several Conferences, he was elected Governour, Mineral Master General, and Register in the said Society, and confirm'd therein at succeeding Courts, under the Corporations Seals, as were also several Gentlemen of Worth, who are legally and regularly elected Members and Assistants in the room of such deceas'd, according to the power of

of the Charters and their Constitutions, and the Methods of other Companies.

Decem. 1716, Potter renew'd his Suit in the High Court of Chancery (his Debt altho' decreed, not being paid) and serv'd *Ph. Peck* with a Process of *Subpæna*, requiring him as Governour, and the Assistants and Society of the said Company, to appear the *23d Jan. 1716.* to the said Suit, which they did and afterwards as such Corporation, petition'd for Time to answer, and they had the same granted.

In *February 1716,* The Governours, Assistants, and Society of the said Corporations, Petition'd the King in Council, for a Grant of Wrecks, which was receiv'd, allow'd of, and his Majesty was pleas'd to Express himself in their Favour, and referr'd their Petition to the Attorney and Solicitor General, in like manner, as the Society's former Petitions to his Royal Predecessors had been done.

March 1716, The Governour paid Potter his Demands on the Company, as *per* his Receipt, *viz.* on the back of the Decree, of which underneath is copied.

I *Thomas Potter* Complainant, do hereby acknowledge to have had and receiv'd, on the Day of the Date hereof, of and from *Ph. Peck, Esq;* Governour of the two United Societies of the City of *London,* of the Mines Royal, the Mineral and Battery Works, the Sum of One Hundred and Sixty Pounds, of lawful Money of *Great-Britain,* being in full Payment, Satisfaction, and discharge of all Principal Money,
D Interest,

Interest, and Cost of Suit, both in Law and Equity, decreed to be paid to me the said *Tho. Potter*, by the late Governour, Assistants, and Societies of the City of *London*, of and for the Mines Royal, the Mineral and Battery Works, *Mary Stringer*, Widow, *Margaret Mitchell*, Widow, *Hermes Hipocrates Stringer*, and *John Jones*. In Witness whereof, I the said *Thomas Potter* have hereunto set my Hand, the 11th of *March*, 1716.

Witness

Charles Bowles,
George Edgcomb,
Jos. Blake.

Tho. Potter.

The subsisting of which Corporations was never doubted of in any Court or Office whatsoever, where they have had any Occasion to apply to: But on the contrary, confirmed and corroborated by several Acts, in the Reigns of the succeeding Kings and Queens of this Realm.

In *November* 1717, The Society's Grants, Charters, &c. was referr'd to a Committee, to be laid before able Councillors, to have their Opinion thereon, and to receive Instructions how to recover their Rents and renew their Leases the former Leases being expir'd.

November 1717, The Committee made their Report that they had read the Grants, made Abstracts, &c. and laid the same before Council, who allow'd they were a Legal Society
and

and might recover their Rents, &c. *per* Action or Bill, &c.

And that they had also perused several Proposals laid before them by Mr. *Philip Peck*, which in their Opinion would be an effectual way to oblige the Tenants of the Society to pay their Rent with chearfulness, and render the Corporation of universal Advantage and Service to his Majesty and to all the Manufacturers of Mineral Affairs.



*A Copy of a Letter to the Committee
for Mineral and Battery Works,
and the Manufacturers thereof.*

Gentlemen,

BEfore the 7th of Queen Eliz. who (Incorporated *William Humfreys, Christopher Shutz*, and others, by the Name of Governours, Assistants, and Society for the Mineral and Battery Works) there was not any Wire made or drawn by any such Arts, Tools and Engines, as were devised by them, and such Strangers as they at great Cost and Charges brought over into this Realm; for before that time, all *English* Wire was made and drawn by Man's Strength, in the Forest of *Dean*, and the North Parts; not having skill in forging Iron, and drawing it into Wire, as the said Patentees and their Agents devised, could not make any great quantity, nor of that goodness, sundry sorts and sizes, as they did; nor so cheap as the like could be brought from Foreign Parts; by means whereof, the greatest part of the Wire then used in *England*, and also Cards ready made for dressing Wool, and divers other Instruments were Imported.

But ever since the first settling of the Patentees Works at *Tintorne*, and other Places; the whole Kingdom of *England* and *Ireland* have been furnished with Wire by the Patentees and their

*Mineral
Works*

their Farmers; and oftentimes such Plenty hath been made, that they have Exported Wire into *Barbary, Turkey*, and other Foreign Countries; and to continue imploying their Men, have been forced to receive into their hands large quantities of Wire, a Year together, until Sale offer'd, and hath been made of such necessary Sorts and Sizes, that the Kingdom approv'd of its Goodness; and was for the most part served with Wire for Wool-Cards, &c. whereby many Thousands of his Majesties Subjects have gotten, and do get their Livings for themselves and Families, more than in former Times.

The said *Humfreys* and *Shutz*, did at their great Charge, bring over into this Realm, above Twenty Strangers Artifts, who they imploy'd at their Work at *Tintorne*, to make and frame the Water Wheels, Engines, Tools, and other Instruments, fitting and belonging to the said Works, and putting in practice the right use of the Water Works and Engines to draw and strain Bars into small Rods for big Wire, and so to all sorts of smaller Wire, the like whereof was never before known in *England*. And the said *Humfreys* and *Shutz*, at their own Cost and Charges, sent for one Mr. *Corflett*, a *German*, who made farther Improvements in the said Undertaking.

The said Patentees and their Successors, continued working, and making Improvements, above Forty Years, without receiving back one half of the Money, they, and their Predecessors, had laid out on the said Works; who afterwards

terwards granted Leases to several to work under them, and took large Fines, and reserv'd Rents, (as *per* the Books,) and destroyed such Work-houses as were not Licens'd.

It will seem necessary now, to give some Account why the Society has not of late Years appear'd in that Lustre, and acted with that Power, as the Privileges granted, entitled them to exert.

One great Cause of the Corporations declining, was by means of several of their Tenants and Farmers, becoming Members, Assistants, and afterwards Governours of the Society. Who by artful Management, so insinuated themselves into others of the said Corporations, whereby (and favouring one another) divers of them who had Leases from, and wrought under the Corporations, obtain'd such large Abatements of Rent, and had new Leases made at such low Rates, as rendred the Income and Revenue to so little a Value, as it was scarce worth the Charge and Trouble of looking after: For the Profits which should have supported such a Body Politick, to answer the good Ends intended, by their being Incorporated, was swallow'd up by private Persons, Members thereof; many of whom got great Estates by the same (notwithstanding their solemn Oaths to the contrary.) And the Rents by means thereof, being thus beaten down in Value, many others lessen'd theirs. And the Corporation thus discouraged, took little Care of their Affairs, as can be made
appear

appear by their Court-Books, wherein too many Examples of such Practices are to be seen.

In 1693, One Mr. *Moses Stringer* being admitted a Member, perceived the Mismanagement and Carelesness of the Society then subsisting, he took Advantage of their Ignorance, bought out some of their Interest, and brought into the Society some of his own Friends, and endeavour'd several Times, by Petitions, Schemes, and Printed Books, to revive the Undertaking; but having the Misfortune to love Drinking to Excess, grew so Irregular and Indiscreet, that no Gentlemen would be Concerned with him.

The Leases of a great many Battery Works being now expired, the Society will proceed, *we hope* not only to exert their Privileges, and establish the Society in a better Condition than before such Leases were granted, but will be also serviceable to the Manufacturers thereof, by advancing the Trade in general, and taking care of their Poor, and other good Offices, as *per* Proposals at large: Which will surmount any Rent such Proprietors will pay for the liberty of working under the Society whose Privileges were granted to them for ever.

Note. That altho' the Company have not been so very succesful to themselves, yet they have been very beneficial to their Tenants and Members, and the whole Kingdom in general, and of great Advantage to the Wool Trade. Therefore in consideration of past Services and Charges,

Charges, if the Company can by good Management establish their Undertaking for the future, upon such Terms as shall be adjudged of an Advantage to all Parties concern'd; it's hoped all Lovers of their Country and Industry, will approve and promote the same, and the Endeavours of,

Your faithful Servant,

P. H. PECK.



To

*To the Comittee of the Society for
the Management of Mines, and
to the Incouragers of Mines, Mi-
nerals, &c.*

Gentlemen,

YOU will find by abstracts of the Patents granted by Queen *Elizabeth* (who being inclinable to have her Kingdoms searched for Mines, Minerals, &c.) Her Majesty gave Power and Liberty to *Thurland* and *Houghsetter*, *Humfreys* and *Shutz*, to dig in her Territories, which they did with application, and great Expence.

Thourland and *Houghsetter*, with others, were Incorporated by the Name of Governours, Assistants, and Society for Mines Royal, and also, *Humfreys* and *Shutz* by the Name of Governours, Assistants, and Society for the Mineral and Battery Works, to them, their Heirs, and Assigns for ever.

Her Majesty, a Princess of unparraled penetration, observing in her great Wisdom, the then unskillfulness of her Subjects in Mineral Affairs, was graciously pleased to give the Society Power to admit Foreigners (that should be eminent for their Knowledge therein) to be employ'd, who for their Incouragement, were to be made free by Letters Patents, with other large Privileges; and by being Incorporated, the me-
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thods and Rules by them used, in the management of their Affairs, might be handed down for the benefit of Posterity; by intailing those Arts, improveable by their Successors in the Society.

The Corporation being thus encouraged, continued making great Improvements in the searching of Oars and Minerals, melting and refining Iron, Slags, Copper, Lead, and other Metals: To effect which, they sunk out of their Capital Stock, to make Tryals and Experiments, the Sum of 3438*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* and at the same time paid the Queen her Share for Copper, and other Metals, 276*l.* 10*s.* *Nett*, without any Charge to the Crown. Notwithstanding, they continued working and granting Leases, as appears by their Rent Roll, especially to Mr. *Sheppard*, who wrought the Mines in *Cardiganshire*, Farmed by Sir *Hugh Middleton*, who got by the same, 2000*l.* *per* Month, which Money he laid out to bring up great Levels to those Mines, and also expended great Sums of Money, to bring the New River Water to *Islington*, for the supply of *London*. And afterwards the famous Chymist, Mr. *Thomas Busbell*, produced so much Gold and Silver, as kept several Mines at work, Cloath'd part of King *Charles* the Ist's Army, Rais'd a Regiment of Horse for the King's Life-Guards, and put his Brother *John Busbell*, at the Head of them, who for his Loyalty was Beheaded.

At the time of the Civil-Wars, the Works became neglected, and Persons invaded the King's Right, and their Privileges, and took
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meers of Ground, and fet Stows, and work'd upon the Crown Lands, to the great Loss and Prejudice of the Crown's Revenue, and lessening the Prerogative Power. And such Persons, by keeping Possession without Interruption, in process of Time, thought themselves rightly and justly possess'd, until Mr. *Anthony Sheppard* undertook, by a Deputation from the Society, to endeavor to retrieve the King's Right, and their Privileges; by means whereof, they might endeavour to be as serviceable to King *W.* and *Q. Ann*, as they had been to King *Charles*; but was prevented by a vexatious Law Suit, and an Act of Parliament procured by the Enemies of their Constitutions, without regarding their former Charge, Expences, and great Services, to the Nation, &c. which prevented their granting Leases upon Subjects Lands; and for want of prudent and skilful Managers, the King's Right, and their Interest was then neglected, occasion'd by the Wars, and little demand for Oar and Lead; but being now settled upon a better Foundation, and proper Persons Elected, skilful in the Mineral Affairs; and several Works belonging to the Society being lately discovered to them, and former Leases expired, and a King of that excellent Wisdom and Knowledge, who is so good an Incourager of such Affairs; His own Territories abounding with great plenty of Mines, and His Majesty and Royal Family taking pleasure to incourage Arts and Industry, obliges the Society to Resolve to exert themselves to promote

His Majesty's Interest, by recovering his just Right in such Grounds as belongs to the Crown, (the Mines not being given away with the Lands) now lying neglected, uncultivated, or else unjustly in Possession of such Persons as have no Legal Right to them.

And the Society will also endeavour to advance the Trade in general, according to their Propositions (or any other Method that shall be recommended) for the constant Employment and Relief of the Artists, Miners, and Poor thereof. And as the Society has been pleas'd to place some Confidence in my Management, I shall make it my Study to answer the Expectations of all concern'd, and endeavour to merit the Love of the Workmen, &c. in this Publick Capacity, as I did when I acted in a private one, preferring always their Interest and Welfare, leaving my future Proceedings to confirm and convince such of my good Intentions, I remain,

Your faithful Servant,

London
Novem. 1717.

PH. PECK.

Please to observe, that the Acts of Parliament pass'd in K. W. and Q. M. no ways lessens the Societies Rights and Privileges in Ireland, and his Majesty's Plantations; or Mines found on Crown or waste Lands in England: And for your farther satisfaction therein, I refer you to the Copy of the said Acts, hereafter mention'd,

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1 *Gulielmi & Maria. A Clause in an Act to Repeal the Statute made in the Fifth Year of King Hen. 4. against the multiplying Gold and Silver.*

PROvided also, And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Mine of Copper, Tin, Iron or Lead, shall hereafter be adjudged, reputed or taken to be a *Royal Mine*, although Gold or Silver may be extracted out of the same.

5 *Gulielmi & Maria. An Act to prevent Disputes and Controversies concerning Royal Mines.*

WHEREAS by a Clause in one Act of Parliament, made in the first Year of their Majesties Reign, Entituled, *An Act to repeal the Statute made in the Fifth Year of King Henry 4. against the multiplying of Gold and Silver*; It is, among other things, Enacted, That no Mine of Tin, Copper, Iron or Lead, shall hereafter be adjudged, reputed or taken to be a *Royal Mine*, although Gold and Silver may be extracted out of the same. But notwithstanding the good Provision by the said Statute to prevent the discouraging their Majesties good Subjects, who have Mines of Copper, Tin, Iron or Lead in their Soils, from digging and opening the same, many Doubts and Questions have arisen upon the said Statute, whereby great
Suits

Suits and Troubles have arisen to many Owners and Proprietors of such Mines.

Wherefore, for the better Explanation of the said Statute, Be it further Enacted and Declared by the King and Queens most Excellent Majesties, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all and every Person and Persons, being Subjects of the Crown of *England*, Bodies Politick or Corporate, that now are, or hereafter shall be the the Owner or Owners, Proprietor or Proprietors of any Mine or Mines within the Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, wherein any Ore now is, or hereafter shall be discovered, opened, found or wrought, and in which there is Copper, Tin, Iron, or Lead, shall and may hold or enjoy the same Mine or Mines, and Ore, and continue in the Possession thereof, and dig and work the said Mine or Mines, or Ore, notwithstanding that such Mine or Mines, or Ore shall be pretended or claimed to be a Royal Mine, or Royal Mines, any Law, Usage or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding. Provided always, and be it Enacted and Declared, that their Majesties, their Heirs and Successors, and all claiming any Royal Mines under them, shall and may have the Ore of any such Mine or Mines, in any part of the said Kingdom of *England*, Dominion of *Wales*, or Town of *Berwick upon Tweed*, (other than Tin Ore in the Counties
of

ners of *Devon and Cornwall*,) paying to the Proprietors or Owners of the said Mine or Mines, wherein such Ore is or shall be found, within Thirty Days after the said Ore is or shall be raised and laid upon the Bank of the said Mine or Mines, and before the same be removed from thence, the Rates following (that is to say) for all Ore washt, made clean and merchantable, wherein is Copper, the Rate of Sixteen Pounds *per Ton*: And for all Ore washt, made clean and merchantable, wherein there is Tin, the Rate of Forty Shillings *per Ton*: And for all Ore, washt, made clean and merchantable, wherein there is Iron, the Rate of Forty Shillings *per Ton*: And for all Ore, washt, made clean and merchantable, wherein there is Lead, the Rate of Nine Pounds *per Ton*: And in Default of Payment of such respective Sums as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful, for the Owners and Proprietors of the said Mine or Mines, wherein such Ore is, are, or shall be found, to sell and dispose of the said Ore to his and their own Uses: any Law, Statute or Custom to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, That nothing contained in this Act shall alter, determine or make void the Charters granted to the Tinnors of *Devon and Cornwall*, by any of the Kings and Queens of this Realm, or any of the Liberties, Privileges or Franchises of the said Tinnors, or to alter, determine or make void the Laws, Customs, or Constitutions of the *Stannaries* of *Devon* or *Cornwall*, or any of them.

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